

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 NEA-10 AID-20 SPC-03 INR-10

PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /092 W  
----- 027089

R 191100Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1968

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0258

DEPT PASS AF/N FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MR, US

SUBJ: GIRM INVITES PRESIDENT NIXON TO STOP AT NOUADHIBOU  
ENROUTE TO OR FROM MID-EAST

1. DURING MARCH 18 INTERVIEW WITH CHARGE, GIRM FORNMIN  
MOUKNASS NOTED THAT MAURITANIA'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON  
HAD LEARNED FROM WHITE HOUSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT  
PRESIDENT NIXON PLANNED TRAVEL TO MID-EAST IN NEAR FUTURE,  
AND FORMIN ASKED IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT  
MAKE BRIEF STOP AT NOUADHIBOU--MAURITANIA'S IRON  
ORE PORT CITY--ENROUTE TO OR FROM MID-EAST. I REPLIED THAT  
EMBASSY HAD NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION RE PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRAVEL  
PLANS, BUT PROMISED PASS INVITATION TO WASHINNTON.

2. WHAT FORNMIN--WHO OBVIOUSLY ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM  
PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH--HAS IN MIND IS BRIEF ONE TO TWO HOUR  
REFUELING STOP IN NOUADHIBOU, WHERE PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD BE  
MET BY OULD DADDAH, GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND RANKING PARTY  
OFFICIALS. THIS SORT OF VISIT QUITE COMMON HERE GIVEN THAT  
NOUAKCHOTT HAS NO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. FOR MAURITANIA  
VISIT WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MUCH IMPROVED  
BILATERAL RELATIONS (WHICH REESTABLISHED ONLY 1970 FOLLOWING  
1967 RUPTURE), SHOW SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TOWARD MID-EAST PEACE  
SETTLEMENT, AND SAY THANK YOU FOR MASSIVE US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE,  
WHICH NOW TOTALS SOME 40 PERCENT OF ALL DROUGHT AID GIRM HAS  
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RECEIVED. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT VISIT WOULD ALSO INCREASE

OULD DADDAH'S PRESTIGE IN AFRICA, MID-EAST AND AT HOME.

3. FOR US, SUCH A VISIT WOULD REEMPHASIZE OUR CONCERN FOR  
HUMAN SUFFERING IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL, BUT WOULD LIKELY  
HAVE LITTLE CONNECTION WITH OUR MID-EAST GOALS BECAUSE MAURITANIA  
ONLY INDIRECTLY INVOLVED THERE DESPITE FACT IT IS CONSIDERED  
AN ARAB STATE.  
SHURTLEFF

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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